

Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 10[1998]-145687

Job No.: 228-112225

Ref.: JP10-145687/RCA 88751,88752,88641 JP/BJC, BJD, JMF (TRACEY, KAREN, DELLA)/#7349

Translated from Japanese by the McElroy Translation Company
800-531-9977 customerservice@mcelroytranslation.com

JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE
PATENT JOURNAL (A)
KOKAI PATENT APPLICATION NO. HEI 10[1998]-145687

Int. Cl. ⁶ :	H 04 N 5/44 1/32 7/025 7/03 7/035 7/08
Filing No.:	Hei 8[1996]-300398
Filing Date:	November 12, 1996
Publication Date:	May 29, 1998
No. of Claims:	5 (Total of 3 pages; OL)
Examination Request:	Not filed

NETWORK CONNECTING DEVICE

Inventors:	Tetsujiro Kondo Sony Corp. 6-7-35 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo Yasushi Noide Sony Corp. 6-7-35 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo
Applicant:	000002185 Sony Corp. 6-7-35 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo

[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Abstract

Problem

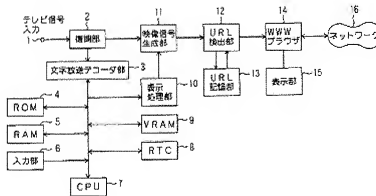
To provide a type of network connecting device characterized by the fact that it can automatically register an URL obtained from a broadcasting program or the like and can easily access the Internet.

Constitution

A type of network connecting device characterized by the fact that it has the following parts: a network connecting means, a video signal means, a video signal generating means, a text row extracting recognition means that extracts network address information from an image input from said video signal generating means, and a network access means that analyzes the network address information and selects and accesses the network for connection.

Effect

It can extract an URL from text on a screen and text information from a text broadcast, and can start and register a WWW browser, so that the user can easily see the URL introduced in the broadcast.



- Key:
- 1 Television signal input
 - 2 Demodulator
 - 3 Text broadcast decoder
 - 6 Input part
 - 10 Display processing part
 - 11 Video signal generating part
 - 12 URL detecting part
 - 13 URL storage part
 - 14 WWW browser
 - 15 Display part
 - 16 Network

Claims

1. A type of network connecting device characterized by the fact that it has the following parts:

a network connecting means,
 a video signal means, a video signal generating means,
 a text row extracting recognition means that extracts network address information from an image input from said video signal generating means, and
 a network access means that analyzes the network address information and selects and accesses the network for connection.

2. The network connecting device described in Claim 1 characterized by the fact that said network address information is http (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) information.

3. The network connecting device described in Claim 1 characterized by the fact that said network access means has a function that determines yes/no of connection ability determined based on an instruction from the user.

4. The network connecting device described in Claim 1 characterized by the fact that it also has a network address information storage means,
 and said network access means has a function of selection of the network for connection based on the network address information stored in said network address information storage means.

5. The network connecting device described in Claim 1 characterized by the fact that it also has a text broadcast decoding means.

Detailed explanation of the invention

[0001]

Technical field of the present invention

The present invention pertains to a type of broadcast receiver and a type of network connecting device.

[0002]

Prior art

The Internet and broadcasting have developed independently in their respective fields over the years. However, in recent years, with progress in information communication technology, the two have become more and more closely correlated to each other. For example, in broadcasting programs, introduction of address information on the internet (universal resource locator, hereinafter to be referred to as URL), introduction of an URL for programs, reception of

surveys, etc., are frequently presented on a screen or by means of text broadcasting (see: Nikkei Personal Computer, March 25, 1996, pp. 218-223).

[0003]

Problems to be solved by the invention

However, in the prior art, when the internet is accessed based on an URL, it is necessary to use software for internet access (hereinafter to be referred to as WWW browser) to register the URL to be accessed. As a result, the user of the Internet has to write down the URL found through a broadcasting program or the like on paper, then start the WWW browser and manually register the URL in the memory. This is a tedious operation.

[0004]

The objective of the present invention is to solve the aforementioned problems of the prior art by providing a type of network connecting device characterized by the fact that an URL obtained through broadcasting programs, etc., can be automatically registered, and the Internet can be accessed easily.

[0005]

Means to solve the problems

In order to realize the aforementioned objective, the present invention provides a type of network connecting device characterized by the fact that it has the following parts: a network connecting means, a video signal means, a video signal generating means, a text row extracting recognition means that extracts network address information from an image input from said video signal generating means, and a network access means that analyzes the network address information and selects and accesses the network for connection.

[0006]

Embodiment of the present invention

In the following, an explanation will be given regarding the present invention with reference to figures. Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a preferable embodiment of the present invention.

[0007]

As shown in Figure 1, a television signal received and tuned by a tuner part is input to input terminal (1). Said input is demodulated by demodulator (2). As a result, one signal is input to video signal generator (11), and another signal is input to text broadcast decoder (3). In text

broadcast decoder (3), a text broadcast signal that is superimposed on the demodulated television signal is separated and decoded. By means of the control bus line of CPU (7), connection is made to each of the following parts: text broadcast decoder (3), ROM (4) that stores the control program of CPU (7), RAM (5) that stores reservation registration data, input part (6) that inputs the reservation registration data, etc., RTC (real-time IC) (8) that controls the display time and display duration, VRAM (9) that stores the decoded text broadcast signal and display processing part (10) that converts the decoded text broadcast signal to a display signal. Input/output of data is controlled via the bus line.

[0008]

Also, by means of CPU (7) or another control means set separately, the tuner is controlled to receive the text broadcast of a desired channel. The text broadcast signal decoded by text broadcast decoder (3) is written and stored in VRAM (10) [sic; (9)] under control of CPU (7), and it is read and input to display processing part (10), and it is input to video signal generator (11).

[0009]

Said video signal generator (11) generates a television video signal or a video signal with a color burst signal superimposed on a television video signal. The video signal generated by video signal generator (11) is input to URL detector (12).

[0010]

In URL detector (12), from the input video signal, text recognition is performed to detect the keyword of the character sequence "http://". When the keyword is detected, the address succeeding it, such as "www.sony.co.jp/" is stored in URL decoder/tuner (13), and, at the same time, it is output to WWW browser (14). Based on the input address, WWW browser (14) connects to network (16), and the data stored in the server of the address are output. The information output from WWW browser (14) is then connected to display part (15) of a television set or the like.

[0011]

Also, in the case of text broadcast, the video signal of the text broadcast is sent via display processing part (10) to video signal generator (11), so that the aforementioned system can be adopted.

[0012]

Effect of the present invention

As explained above, according to the network connecting device of the present invention, the URL is extracted from text on the screen and from the text broadcast so that the WWW browser is started and registered. As a result, the user can easily view an URL introduced by a broadcast.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a preferable embodiment of the present invention.

Explanation of symbols

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Input terminal |
| 2 | Demodulator |
| 3 | Text broadcast decoder |
| 4 | ROM |
| 5 | RAM |
| 6 | Input part |
| 7 | CPU |
| 8 | RTC |
| 9 | VRAM |
| 10 | Display processing part |
| 11 | Video signal generator |
| 12 | URL detector |
| 13 | URL storage part |
| 14 | WWW browser |
| 15 | Display part |
| 16 | Network |

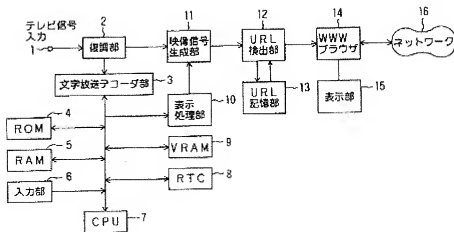


Figure 1

- Key:
- 1 Television signal input
 - 2 Demodulator
 - 3 Text broadcast decoder
 - 6 Input part
 - 10 Display processing part
 - 11 Video signal generating part
 - 12 URL detecting part
 - 13 URL storage part
 - 14 WWW browser
 - 15 Display part
 - 16 Network